night fares at Rs. 100.00 only. The number of seats allocated for these fares is nearly 80% of the capacity.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to quantify the additional revenue generated at this point as the scheme has been in operation for approx. 45 days, however, The passenger numbers carried on the domestic sector for the above period has shown an increase of approx. 15%. The domestic carriers come out with special concessional fares from time to time in accordance with their commercial judgement and market forces.

Losses suffered by Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam Airports

163. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam airports in Andhra Pradesh are consistently incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase scheduled operations of Indian Airlines to these airports to increase traffic so that these airports are revived; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last 3 years *i.e.* 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, losses suffered at Tirupati airport are Rs. 1.84 crore, Rs. 2.31 crore and Rs. 2.56 crore respectively. Losses suffered at Vishakhapatnam airport during the period are Rs. 1.78 crore, Rs. 2.84 crore and Rs. 2.28 crore respectively. Very low traffic is the major reason for incurring consistent losses at the two airports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines/Alliance Air are fully committed in the operation of services in India including Tirupati and

Vishakhapatnam in the existing schedule. As such, Indian Airlines has no plan to increase scheduled operations from these airports.

Pilots' strike

164. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots of Air India went on strike during April, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the agreement reached with them in calling off their week-long strike; and

(d) the salaries and perks being paid to pilots and crew members per month, including other facilities available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Pilots Guild issued various Directives to its members directing *inter alia* (i) not to operate flights to and from Hongkong due to SARS spread, (ii) not to operate flights to Kuwait due to prevailing situation in Iraq, (iii) not to fly with Executives exposed to SARS while operating flights to Hongkong till the incubation period of seven days is complete after arriving in Mumbai, (iv) not to operate flights to and from Singapore, (v) not to operate flights with any crew (cockpit or cabin) who have arrived from Singapore/Hongkong since last 10 days.

(c) The IPG has withdrawn all the directives and agreed to resume normal flight duties unconditionally.

(d) The average salary per month and perks being paid to the pilots are as under:

SENIOR CAPTAIN.

A310		B747-200		B747-400	
				(Rs. in lakhs)	
MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
3.40	3.45	3.26	3.30	3.65	3.89